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NEWS RELEASE

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ARMY RECRUITER, MILITARY POLICEMAN, AND SEX OFFENDER INDICTED FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENSES

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that three separate indictments were returned against RAMON SANTOS, Jr., 41, of Lemoore, California, MICHAEL MAIER, 26, of Lemoore, California, and KEITH ALAN BRECKENRIDGE, 20, of Fresno, California. Each indictment alleges that the defendant possessed and received or distributed images of child pornography.

According to court documents, SANTOS was identified after Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents analyzed a computer that had been seized in West Palm Beach, Florida. The analysis suggested SANTOS had sent images of child pornography to the owner of the computer by e-mail. When a search warrant was executed at SANTOS's residence in California, agents discovered numerous images of child pornography on a computer. SANTOS admitted that he had acquired and distributed images of child pornography through use of e-mail and peer-to-peer file-sharing programs. SANTOS, a 17-year Army veteran, most recently had worked on active duty as a military recruiter. His case was investigated by the Fresno office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Fresno County Sheriff's Department Computer Crimes Investigation Unit, and the Navy Criminal Investigation Service.

According to court documents, MAIER was identified after Yahoo! sent a CyberTipline report to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children stating that someone had uploaded images of suspected child pornography to a Flickr photo-sharing site. MAIER had been serving on active duty in the

U.S. Navy as a military policeman. When a search warrant was executed at his residence on the Lemoore Naval Air Station, he admitted to a longtime addiction to child pornography and that he regularly trafficked in child pornography with numerous people throughout the world. He also admitted being sexually attracted to females aged 8–11. His case also was investigated by the Fresno office of ICE, the Fresno County Sheriff's Department Computer Crimes Investigation Unit, and the Navy Criminal Investigation Service.

The indictment against BRECKENRIDGE alleges that from January through March 2008 he received images of child pornography and stored them on a computer hard drive and a wireless multimedia device. It also alleges that he was convicted on December 4, 2006, for sexual battery in the California Superior Court, Fresno County. His case was investigated by members of the Fresno Police Department Crime Suppression Team, with assistance from the Fresno office of ICE, and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department Computer Crimes Investigation Unit. He is currently detained at the Fresno County Jail on state charges, including a probation violation offense.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the cases, the recently established Fresno Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force assisted with all three investigations.

Each defendant faces up to 10 years imprisonment for the possession of child pornography and up to 20 years imprisonment for the receipt or distribution of child pornography. The maximum potential fine for each charge is \$250,000 and there is a possible lifetime term of supervised release. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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